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Project: White Pond Cell Tower (026-152B)

Project Sponsor: Jim Wilson, Strategic Communications Services, Inc.

Project Location: Eastern Aiken County, South Carolina

Field Personnel: Julie Poppell and Nicole Southerland

Date of Survey: January 10, 2006

Objective: To evaluate the historic sites that may be present on the tract and to evaluate land use activities and their potential affects on possible archaeological sites.

Survey Description: The tract is located off of SC 78 and Wimpy Road, about four miles south of the town of Windsor. While the tract has already been cleared, presumably for construction, the surrounding area consists of fields and mixed pines and hardwoods. The tract consists of an access road, which leads to an area measuring approximately 100 feet by 120 feet. The tower will measure about 26 feet by 26 feet by 26 feet.

The Soil Survey of Aiken County (Rogers 1981) shows that the tract is covered with the well-drained Troup sands. A typical profile of this soil has an A horizon of grayish brown (10YR5/2) sand to a depth of 0.2 foot over a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) sand to a depth of 1.7 feet. The elevation of the area is about 390 feet AMSL (above mean sea level).

We were told in an e-mail (dated December 20, 2005) from Jim Wilson that only the archaeological survey was needed.

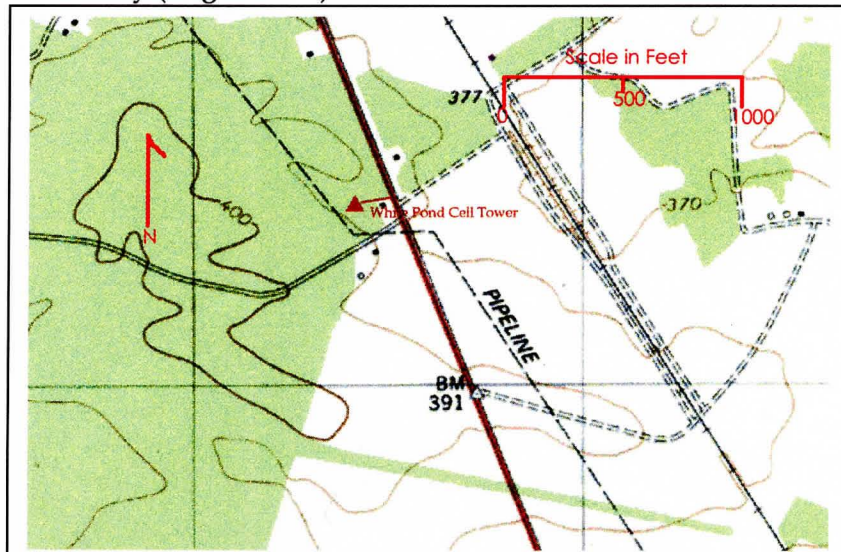


Figure 1. Location of cell tower shown on USGS Williston 7.5'.

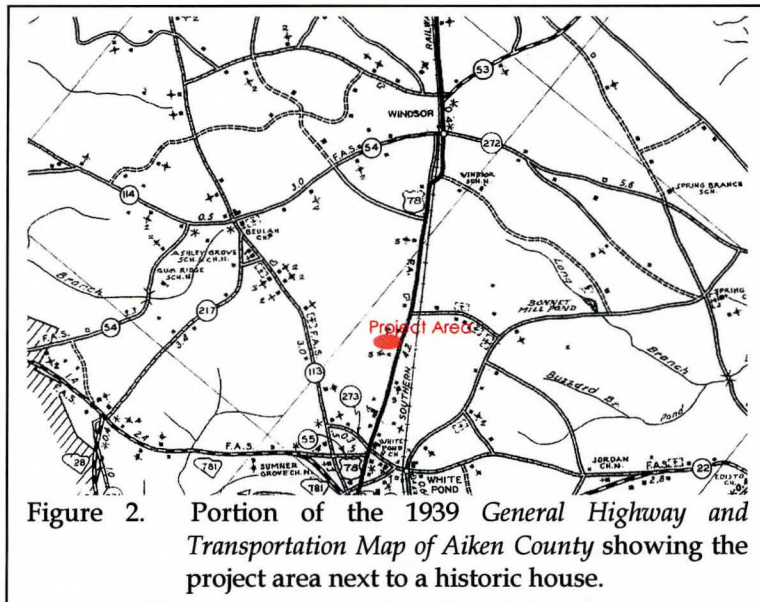


Figure 2. Portion of the 1939 General Highway and Transportation Map of Aiken County showing the project area next to a historic house.

Therefore, we do not know the results of the background research from the S.C. Department of Archives and History (SHPO) nor the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). However, we did consult two maps located in the Chicora Foundation office – the 1825 Mills' Atlas (Barnwell District) and the 1939 General Highway and Transportation Map of Aiken County.

Results: Examination of the 1825 Mills' Atlas revealed no road or structures near the project area. However, the 1939 General Highway and Transportation Map of

Aiken County shows a structure and tenant house just south of the project area (Figure 2). The house is still standing, but is dilapidated with no floor or windows (Figure 3).

A total of five shovel tests were excavated in the project area (Figure 4). Three shovel tests were excavated along the entrance road, which was bulldozed at the time of the survey (Figure 5). The road runs beside the structure shown on the 1939 map. While a surface scatter of artifacts was seen around the area (including such items as manganese glass, cobalt glass, milk glass, clear glass, green glass, and undecorated whiteware), no artifacts were found subsurface in the shovel tests. The majority of the scatter seems contained in the yard area of the structure, which is off the project area. Two shovel tests were excavated in the area that will contain the actual cell tower (Figure 4 and 6). These tests were also negative. The shovel test profiles were consistent with the soil survey.

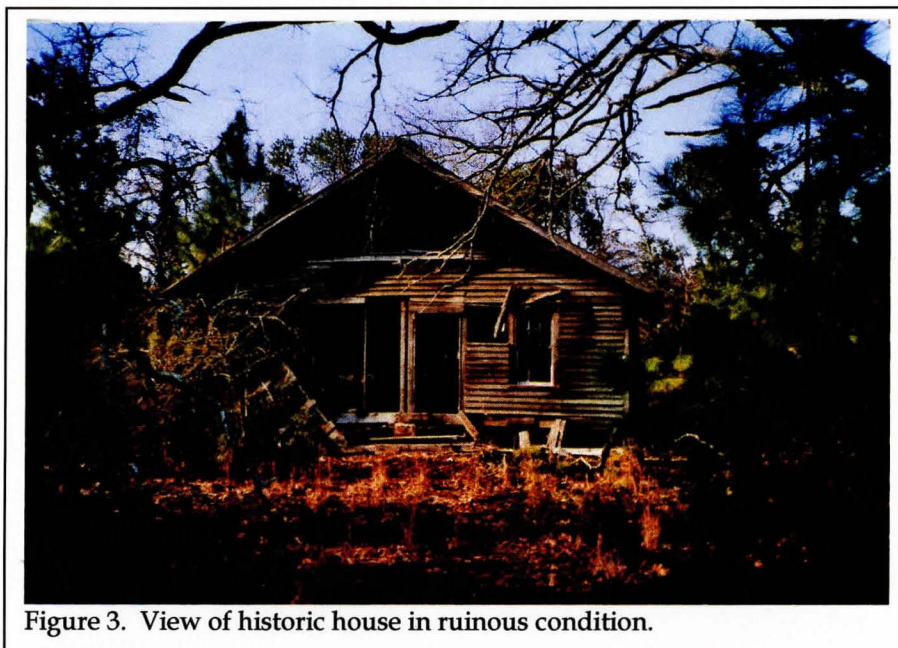
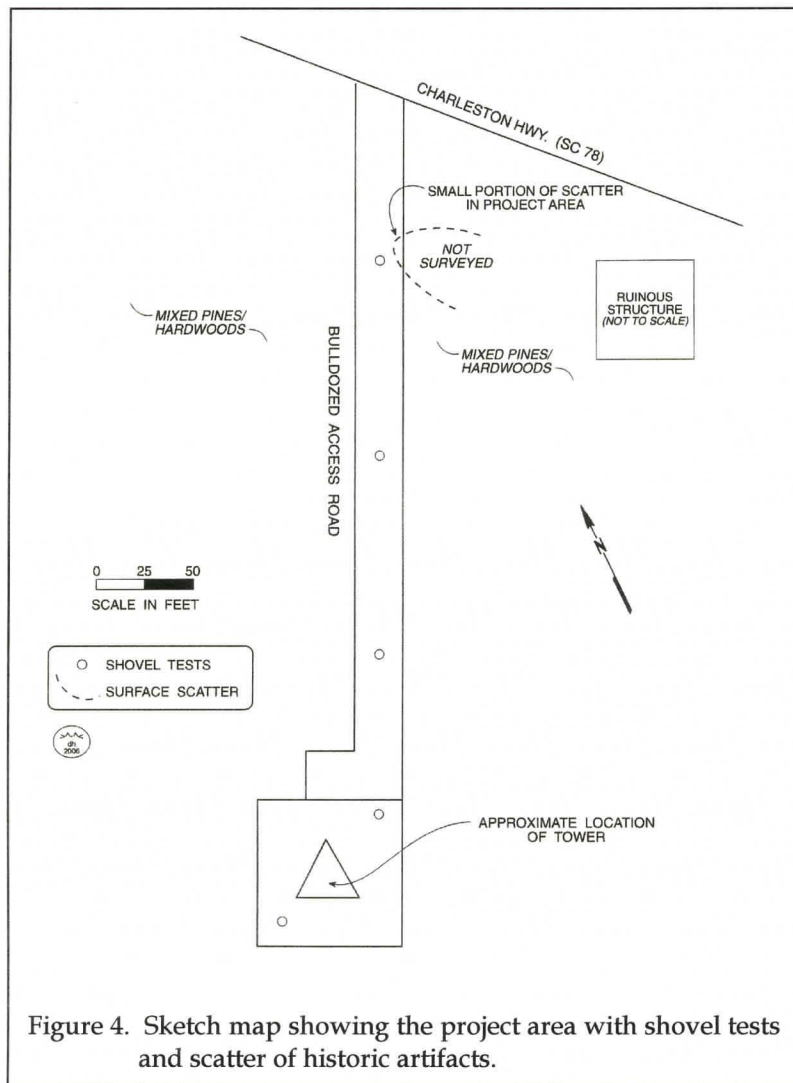


Figure 3. View of historic house in ruinous condition.



bulk of remains were located in the yard of an existing house, which is in ruinous conditions. The current undertaking should not have any impact on the site, should it ever be evaluated.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered during construction activities. As always, contractors should be advised to report any discoveries of

We were not retained to perform an architectural survey of the area, however, the structure immediately adjacent to the project area is in ruinous condition and does not appear to be eligible for the National Register. One other structure that appears to pre-date 1950 is located within the immediate area (about 500 feet) of the proposed cell tower (Figure 7). Again, this structure does not appear to be distinct enough to be eligible for the National Register, but we have conducted no assessment.

Summary: No subsurface artifacts were found during the survey. While some late nineteenth to twentieth century remains were noticed, only a few were scattered on the surface in the project area. In addition, the few artifacts that were found appear to be the outer edge of the site – no additional artifacts were noted north of the project area. The



Figure 5. View of the bulldozed roadway to the cell tower site.



Figure 6. View of shovel testing in the cell tower area.

or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the State Historic Preservation Office or Chicora Foundation (the process of dealing with late discoveries is discussed in 36CFR800.13(b)(3)). No further land altering activities should take place in the vicinity of these discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist

and, if necessary, have been processed according to 36CFR800.13(b)(3).

Rogers, Vergil A.

1981 *Soil Survey of Aiken County, South Carolina*. U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C.



Figure 7. View of historic house from the project area.